

of youth is a community responsibility, that it cannot be left to chance, and that some way must be found for the resources of the community to be brought to bear on the problem.

Another point in the book's favor is that it recognizes that the country as a whole has not yet fully sensed the problem, and that much thinking and a great deal of experimentation need to be done before we come to a satisfactory conclusion. The author takes no doctrinaire position as to where responsibility for this function lies; one welcomes the refreshing point of view that leadership in this field belongs to whoever has the vision to see the need and the ability and opportunity to meet it.

The book is well written, interesting, and extremely practical.

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STAFFORD, PAUL TUTT. *Government and the Needy*. Pp. xiv, 328. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1941. \$3.00.

This is a survey of the several public relief processes in New Jersey, from the beginning of the Roosevelt Administration in 1933 to 1940. It should be paralleled by a like study in each of the other states of the Union, to the end that the defects of our present system and the need for greater coherence in the future may be impressed vividly and unforgettably upon the national mind.

With good scientific technique, the author is frank and plain spoken in his conclusions. To the citizen who believes in ultimate efficiency in the government of our democracy, it is not nice reading. Those who have had firsthand contact with public relief conditions will recognize it as a mild, if unvarnished, account of the truth. Nor will the informed reader discover anything in New Jersey peculiarly different, much better, or appreciably worse than conditions prevailing elsewhere throughout the Nation.

The author gives us three angles of approach: first, historical development; second, an account of the present system in operation; and third, a program for the future, presented as a prognosis in the light of the New Jersey story.

Part I, which goes back to the colony, seems unnecessarily restricted to the area under immediate study. An additional chapter, orienting Jersey practice in the public poor relief of the seaboard colonies, would have clarified New Jersey policies and shown their natural and inevitable consummation more clearly. Legal aspects of public poor relief, especially with reference to legal settlement as distinct from domiciliary residence, and the practice of farming out the care of the town's poor, might perhaps be treated with more incisiveness.

These, however, are minor queries. The work as a whole is masterful in its comprehensive treatment. The thesis cannot be read without genuine alarm at the prevalence of what the author calls "a sprawling hierarchy of relief agencies." He finds a faith in the impermanence of the program to be its basic fallacy; a diffusion of responsibility and a lack of administrative stability, its greatest weakness. "Public policy in the field," he says, "is uncertain, temporary and vacillating." Federal funds, the major outlay, he notes, have been provided solely out of borrowing, while the financing of the State's share was never better than a hodgepodge of borrowing, fund transferral, and current revenue devices.

It is a strong indictment, relieved only by the commendable improvement found under the present plan of Federal grants-in-aid.

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KLEIN, ALICE CAMPBELL. *Civil Service in Public Welfare*. Pp. 444. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1940. \$2.25.

This work was designed to serve a practical purpose, namely, to acquaint public welfare workers with the methods and procedures of civil service commissions on the ground that such acquaintance is called for because of the changed status of workers in this field. Governments have now become the major employers of public welfare employees. Secondly, under the provisions of the Social Security Board the merit system is extended to all welfare agencies subsidized by the Federal Government.

Mrs. Klein has handled her task in a